ABSTRACT

A method and apparatus for monitoring wear of a dicing saw blade. The apparatus has a light source to emit light onto an end surface of the saw blade; a sensor for receiving a reflection of a portion of the light from the end surface of the saw blade; and a processor coupled to the sensor for determining wear of the saw blade based on an output from the sensor. The apparatus may also display the wear rate of the saw blade, the present diameter of the saw blade, and/or an estimated time for replacement of the saw blade. The method comprises emitting light onto a cutting edge of the saw blade; receiving a reflection of at least a portion of the light from the edge of the saw blade; and determining wear of the saw blade based on the reflected light.